

ABSTRACT

A system and method of calculating an estimated time of arrival for a traveler is provided, along with a notification of this estimated time that is sent to a third party. The traveler is equipped with a navigation unit having a global positioning sensor and a wireless communications device. The navigation unit communicates with a service center equipped with a server capable of generating a preferred navigational route for the traveler. The service center also includes a traffic database for maintaining current traffic information. Once the traveler has selected a predetermined time and frequency of notifications based upon a selected criterion, the navigation unit transmits the traveler's position and velocity to the service center. The service center then calculates the estimated time of arrival based upon the traveler's position, velocity, distance to be traveled and traffic and weather conditions. Once this time is calculated, the service center sends a notification to the third party.